



The University of Vermont

October 27, 2015

**To:** VGS ANGP Phase I Project File

**From:** Dr. John G. Crock, Director, UVM Consulting Archaeology Program

**RE:** Archaeological Assessment for Project Changes

Vermont Gas Systems Addison Natural Gas Project- Phase 1 (Docket No. 7970)

The University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program (UVM CAP) has prepared this memorandum to provide an assessment of the impacts to archaeological sites and historic properties by proposed changes to the Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (VGS) Addison Natural Gas Project Phase 1 (“ANGP” or “Project”). This assessment supplements my previous testimony and exhibits concerning the review of the Project’s impacts to archaeological and historic resources as required under 30 V.S.A. Section 248.

The Project changes reviewed in this assessment are described in detail in the Non-Substantial Change Summary Memorandum prepared by Mr. John Stamatov on behalf of VGS. Specifically, this assessment relates to the proposed Rotax Road Reroute in Monkton, Vermont.

Archaeological deposits associated with four separate preContact era Native American archaeological sites were identified as a result of the archaeological Phase I Survey within the Rotax Road Reroute APE. However, following Phase II site evaluations conducted within each site area, none are considered significant within the project APE. These sites include site VT-AD-1687 near the northern boundary of LLN 134 (Norris), site VT-AD-456 farther south on LLN 134 (Norris), site VT-AD-1688 along the east-west portion of the reroute on LLN 135 (Mayo), and portions of site VT-AD-1623 on 135.01 (Latrielle) and LLN 138 (Latrielle) where the reroute meets the permitted route.

In addition, and by design, the Rotax Road Reroute also avoids the location of previously recorded dense concentrations of archaeological deposits on LLN 134 (Norris) that are associated with site VT-AD-456 and located to the east of the proposed reroute and west of the VELCO corridor. The proposed reroute also will avoid two significant archaeological site areas along the permitted route, one area associated with the same archaeological site, VT-AD-456, located on the southwestern portion of LLN 134 (Norris) where archaeological Phase III mitigation has been conducted and another, located on LLN 138 (Latrielle), where archaeological Phase III mitigation would be necessary.

Based on my review, including the results of archaeological Phase I Survey and Phase II site evaluations of sites within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) of the proposed Rotax Road Reroute, the proposed changes will not have an undue adverse effect on significant archaeological sites or historic properties.

**CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM**

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